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February 19, 2004 LB 526, 599, 1048, 1100, 1139, 1198, 1202
LR 14

announcements or items for the record.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Committee on Health and Human Services reports LB 599, LB 1139, LB 1198 to General File with amendments, and LB 1100 indefinitely postponed. And a series of confirmation reports from Health and Human Services Committee. A hearing notice from the Retirement Systems Committee. Senator Kruse, amendments to LB 526, to be printed. Priority bill designations: Senator Brashear, LB 1202; and the Education Committee, LB 1048 as one of its two priority bills. Thank you, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 665-679.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We are on Select File, LR 14CA. We're discussing FA1469, offered by Senator Smith. Further discussion, Senator Johnson, followed by Senators Smith, Jones, Schimek, Brashear, Chambers, Stuthman, Beutler, Foley, and Hartnett. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback and members of the Chamber. Senator Combs, you had one quote of, come, let us reason together. I actually was...I thought of discussion here this morning as something about casting lots. I want to put in my two cents about the low-level nuclear waste site as well. What a disaster. The thing that's kind of amazing to me is that we reject a site that's going to be a place where we can put the trash that comes from your hospital, so when you had your thyroid isotope study done, they take it from the nuclear trash can at the hospital and put it in a low-level nuclear waste facility, and we can't do that. I'd call your attention to three interesting things that are in and about Nebraska. First of all, there is not a low-level nuclear waste dump within 20 miles of Lincoln, Nebraska, but a high-level nuclear waste dump, used to be called the Hallam Nuclear Power Plant. And by any definition, it is a high-level nuclear waste dump. If I recall correctly, even the design for this plant was similar to a place called Chernobyl. We've had nuclear missile sites all over this state, as close as up here at Valparaiso, just up Highway 77...79, I'm off by two, just west of 77. And there's another interesting little statistic you might be interested in, and that's this: The state of South Dakota has either the fourth- or fifth-largest nuclear power in the world. But we're